



Family Update - Week 5, Term 1

Wednesday 23 February 2022

Dear Hurlstone students and families,

A big thank you for your continuing efforts in supporting our school and students during the pandemic - especially in prioritising safety and learning.

The Premier and Minister for Education have announced changes to school settings for the remainder of Term 1. These updated settings were developed in close consultation with NSW Health and key stakeholders to ensure we continue to keep our schools open for learning, while keeping up with changing community settings.

The updated settings include:

- We will continue the use of rapid antigen tests (RATs) for twice-weekly testing of students and staff until Friday 25 February.
- From Monday 28 February, we will move to symptomatic testing. Tests are to be used at your discretion such as if your child is symptomatic or there are cases in their class. Our school will provide each student and staff member with **5 tests** this Friday. If you require additional tests, please complete [this form](#).
- Beyond that, students and staff can access PCR tests or buy their own rapid antigen tests as these are now readily available and accessible in the community.
- Masks will continue to be required indoors for all school staff, volunteers and visitors including parents and carers, and students in secondary schools until Friday 25 February. From Monday 28 February, masks will no longer be mandatory for students in Year 7 and above or staff. However, those who wish to continue to use them will be supported to do so.
- From Monday 28 February, visitors can be allowed back on school sites regardless of their vaccination status. Our school will consider activities such as assemblies, parent-teacher meetings and other gatherings in the coming days. We will let you know if these can proceed with our school in a COVID-smart way. All visitors are asked to follow our usual sign-in and sign-out process.

Our school will continue to ensure our layered COVID-smart measures are in place, including vaccinations, maximising natural ventilation in learning spaces, continued good hand hygiene practices and enhanced cleaning.

Cohorting no longer required

As of Monday 28 February, students will no longer be required to be kept in year groups or other cohorts and we will no longer be required to use staggered start or finish times.

Students should refer to current transport information and plan accordingly to ensure they arrive at school on time for period 1, which commences at 8.40am. A reminder that lateness due to transport is considered an 'unjustified' absence by the NSW Department of Education.

We will continue to use the core layered COVID-smart measures for minimising risk when planning activities and events.

We strongly encourage our students and their families to consider vaccination including boosters when eligible. [Find a vaccination clinic](#) to book an appointment near you.

Thank you again for your continued support during this school term.

Kind regards,

Christine Castle, Principal
Hurlstone Agricultural High School

